ment of Mr. N. P. Easwara Ayyar, Headmaster, Sirkar Boys' High School, Trippunittura, may be extended or to the same effect;

(b) what is the reply given by the Government to the petitioners:

(c) if it is that the request cannot be sanctioned, will the Government state why they could not have granted it;

(d) when is Mr. Easwara Ayyar to retire or has he already been retired;

(e) what is the rule under which he retires or has retired;

(f) if it is the age rule, why should Government retain such a rule and order exceptions sometimes and disallow exceptions at other times and create discontent;

(g) how many people are there now in the service of the Government who are 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62 years old;

(h) if retention in service after the prescribed age is found necessary in so many cases, why do the Government not think of changing the prescription and raising the age limit to 60 or 70 and make the rule the same for all and avoid the necessity for granting exceptions:

(i) what is the rule in Travancore and in British India?

Mr. C. Matthai.—(a) Yes.

(b) Copy of the reply is appended (*Vide Appendix III.*)

(c) The officer was retired under article 201 of the C.S.R.

(d) With effect from 21st Edavam 1102.

(e) Vide answer to part (c).

(f) The exception to the age rule of 55 years is allowed at times in cases of a special nature, and the Government consider that it cannot be done away with altogether.

(g) For officers on Rs. 50 and above *the Civil List* may be consulted. Information in regard to the others is not readily available.

(h) Government do not think that any change in the existing rule and practice is necessary.

(i) No information.

The Excise Committee.

41. Dr. A. G. Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Excise Committee has submitted its reports on the Excise policy of the Government; if so,

(1) whether the Government have passed orders on it;

(2) will the Government be pleased to place them on the table?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—1. and 2. The Committee's report has not been received.

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Dr. A. G. Menon.—May I know how long it will take to submit its report to the Government ? It is already 16 months ; how much more time will it require to submit its report to the Government ?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—The draft report was passed at a meeting held on the 27th of Mithunam 1102. It had to be signed by the members and submitted to the Government. But one member, Mr. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar, was absent.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—So the draft report contains the signatures of the others.

President.—So the draft report was passed at that meeting.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Yes ; and the fair report is just ready.

42. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of meetings of the Excise Committee held in the first 9 months after the appointment of the Committee ;

(b) whether the Committee at its first meeting had not decided that the next meeting should be held in last Kanni and whether there was any meeting in Kanni as decided upon and to mention the reason for not holding a meeting in that month as decided upon by the Committee at its meeting;

(c) whether the Convener has the power and authority to annul the decisions arrived at by the Committee at its meetings and if he has no such power, why did he not call together the meeting in Kanni;

(d) whether the Convener informed the members of the Committee that the meeting arranged to be held in Kanni could not be held for some reason or other and did he ascertain the opinion of the members in this matter; and if he did not do so, what is the reason for not doing so ;

(e) whether any letter was received by the Convener from any of the members of the Committee for holding a meeting before the last budget session of the Council to consider any definite matter ; and, if so, whether the letter be printed and placed on the table ;

(f) whether the Convener convened the meeting as requested, replied the letter or acknowledged the receipt of it ;

(g) whether any member of the Committee wrote to the Government about the irregular way in which the work of the Committee has been done and recording his disapprobation and if so, whether copies of such letters be printed and placed on the table ;

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